

SEP 29 2006

For The Northern Mariana Islands
By _____
(Deputy Clerk)

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

ABELLANOSA, JOANNA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

L&T INTERNATIONAL CORP.,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 05-0010

**DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

I, ANASTACIA CABANIT, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen years old, have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, am competent to testify as to these facts if called as a witness in a court of law, and if called would testify as stated herein.
2. On or about January, 2004, I went to L&T to apply for an advertised job vacancy for hand packers. After filling-up and turning in the application form, I was told that L&T will just call me for further information.
3. After about three days, an L&T personnel who identified herself as Baby Lopez, called me up for interview. When I reported to L&T, a certain Cory Quing conducted the interview.
4. During my interview, Cory Quing asked me if I can start working immediately and if my then employer is willing to release me to L&T. Thereafter, I was told to report to Amy Tse for another round of interview. After the second interview, I was told to go home and L&T would just call me for further instruction.

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ORIGINAL

I.
MEDICAL FEES
(Physical Examination Fee
and Health Certificate Fee)

5. A few days later, I got a call from Baby Lopez asking me to report to HR office. When I arrived at HR, I met with Baby Lopez who asked me to complete the Consensual Transfer documents and have my employer to complete and sign them, which I did. Baby Lopez noted that my health certificate had not yet expired. She told me that L&T would use my health certificate from my then employer.

II.
CONTRACT SIGNING

5. My first non-resident contract was in 1996. Basically, annually since then, each year, my employers used and had me sign a standard form labor contract provided by DOL. I became familiar with the basic terms of the DOL standard form contract. A copy of such standard form contract is attached as Exhibit "2" to Plaintiffs' Verified/Amended Opposition.

6. In 2004, when an L&T HR staff handed me their contract form, with only the signature page showing, and insisting that I sign, I had no reason to believe it was not the standard DOL form contract. Prior to signing this L&T contract form and at the time it was presented to me in the HR for signing, I was not given an opportunity to read the contract before signing it. When it was presented to me in the HR office, Marlene del Rosario just pointed to where I was to sign it, and said sign, which I did without reading it. The HR staff was rushing me and other applicants by insisting that I and the other

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1 applicants I saw present, hurry up and quickly sign, without delaying the
2 document processing. From the mood and way the HR staff was acting, I was
3 made fearful that if I didn't just sign the signature page as instructed, I would
4 lose the job opportunity especially since none of the other applicants I saw
5 there held up the line by or took time to read the contract document. I
6 observed the HR staff acting the same way with other workers who signed
7 before and after my turn. Neither Marlene del Rosario, nor any one else, ever
8 showed me my contract document until the time and date they asked me (us)
9 to sign at HR. I was never given a copy of the L&T contract document I signed
10 before my termination on or about May 13, 2004. After my termination I was
11 surprised when I later learned of some of the conditions and terms in L&T's
12 self-styled contract. Had I known that the L&T self-styled contract contained
13 terms restricting me from being employed with other competing companies in
14 Saipan and allowing L&T to terminate me at any time as a reduction in force,
15 I would not have agreed to or signed it.

16
17 III.
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

18 7. There was no individualized measurement or testing to determine my or
19 each Packer's individual performance or production. The only production
20 measurement or test was done by counting the output (production) from each
21 of the different lines of Packers. There was really no way for me as an
22 individual packer to control or show an increase in the number of products
23 because I was just one individual on the line with many others. In the
24 packing section our work was performed by groups of workers on so-called
25

1 lines. The packages or items we were assigned to work on often varied from
2 day to day. Our Head Supervisor in the packing section was Cao, Li Qun, who
3 is Chinese. When I and other Filipino workers tried to ask her questions
4 regarding our work she could not answer nor explain because she does not
5 speak english fluently. (See Defendant's Response to Plaintiffs' First Set of
6 Request for Interrogatories No. 49a).

7
8 IV.
9 TERMINATION

10 8. I was employed and worked for L&T International Corporation as a hand
11 packer until May 13, 2004, when I and other workers in the hand packing
12 section were summoned by the calling of our individual names over the public
13 address system, to report to the Human Resources (HR) office. I believe and
14 understand we were called in two batches, one about 3:00 p.m. and one about
15 5:00 p.m. (See Deposition of Jack Torres, page 97, lines 14-17).

16 9. I did not know why we were being called to come to HR. I thought that
17 we were being called regarding receipt of our anticipated ATM Cards that L&T
18 had previously given us and had us fill out an application for, as they told me
19 and other workers present, to make it easier and more convenient for (us)
20 workers to access and get our anticipated bi-weekly wage payments without
21 having to stand in line waiting for and trying to cash payroll checks. I was
22 made more assured of my continued employment and anticipated pay check
23 by L&T having asked me and other workers to set up these ATM accounts to
24 facilitate our anticipated payroll check payments.

25 10. As we arrived at the designated meeting room, I observed other workers,

1 and Corazon Quing, Malou Ernest and Rhodora Bernabe, known to us as HR
2 staff, were present at the May 13, 2004 meeting.

3 11. I did not see or hear Corazon Quing read or reading from any document
4 or the so-called "communication plan" as described and stated in Exhibit "A"
5 attached to the Declaration of Corazon Quing.

6 12. More specifically, I (we) were not told as stated by Corazon Quing that we
7 the workers, had the right to appeal our termination to the "Legal
8 Department" of L&T or to any one else.

9 13. Neither Malou Ernest, Corazon Quing nor any one else at the May 13,
10 2004 meeting, informed us, that the purpose of the so-called second check
11 was "to cover for 10 days pay in lieu of notice," as stated in paragraph 7,
12 Declaration of Corazon Quing. Additionally, L&T's own RIF policy required,
13 as proposed RIF workers, that I (we) be given "written notice of separation at
14 least 15 days prior to the effective date of separation, or severance pay in lieu
15 of notice." (See Ex. "D" Deposition of Torres, and page 88 lines 6-8 and lines
16 20-24).

17 14. It was my honest belief that I and my co-workers were terminated on May
18 13, 2004 and that the termination was effective immediately on and from May
19 13, 2004, because I (we) were told by HR staff at the May 13, 2004 meeting
20 that today (May 13, 2004) was our last day of employment and they demanded
21 that we give up and turn in our company ID cards which were required and
22 needed for company employees to freely enter company premises; and more
23 importantly, our I.D.s were swipe-cards for the time-clocks so we could not
24 clock in or out without them, in addition to being required to "turn over any
25 and all company properties in your possession... on or before May 13, 2004"

1 as stated in the Notice of Termination. (See Ex. "D," Defendant's
2 Memorandum).

3 15. As a result I believed and felt that I was terminated and forced to stop
4 working on May 13, 2004, the same date that the Notice of Termination (dated
5 May 12, 2004) was given to me. Hence, I was not given the required prior
6 notice of termination and/or of the RIF.

7 16. I and the other plaintiffs worked a set work schedule and shift, and
8 worked Monday through Saturday, seven (7) hours a day, six (6) days a week,
9 for a total of forty-two (42) hours each work week, which included two (2) hour
10 overtime each work week while employed at L&T.

11
12 V.
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

13 17. The termination, being announced and coming as it did without any prior
14 notice, counseling or discussion about employment options with other
15 companies or L&T caused me severe shock. After the announcement, I felt
16 weak, mentally and physically drained. I felt betrayed by such abrupt
17 termination of employment. I became moody. I was restless and could hardly
18 sleep at night. I was having nausea due to headache and loss of appetite. My
19 well being was affected as a I worried too much after the termination. For
20 several months after L&T terminated my employment, I was too embarrassed
21 and ashamed to go to gatherings of friends and acquaintances because of fear
22 of being asked about my sudden firing and termination by L&T. I felt like a
23 social outcast. I was even hesitant to go out for fear that I might meet
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1 somebody from my former employment and inquired about my predicament
2 with L&T. The termination, being announced and coming as it did without
3 any prior notice, counseling or discussion about employment options with
4 other companies or L&T caused me severe shock. After the announcement, I
5 felt weak, mentally and physically drained.

6 22. The way L&T broke the news of termination to us, not individually or privately,
7 but *en masse* in front of all the other employees, resulted in wailing, crying and
8 shouting and pandemonium among the workers present; I and the other workers
9 present were trying to console one another. I was shocked, in a stupor, mortified
10 and dumbfounded. The termination left me physically and emotionally drained from
11 the severe emotional distress caused thereby. I felt restless. In addition, I worried
12 and could not stop thinking of the loss of work and livelihood.

13 23. I noticed and felt that I am not the same person before and after the loss of
14 my job at L&T.

15 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct
16 and that this declaration was executed this 28th day of September, 2006.

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18
19 /S/ 
20 Anastacia Cabanit
21 Declarant
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